

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 /055 W

----- 012378

O P 060230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4811

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI US VS

SUBJ: MR-4 REACTION TO PRES THIEU'S APRIL 4 TELEVISED SPEECH

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM CAN THO APRIL 5 SENT AMEMBASSY  
SAIGON H/W REPEATED TO YOU. QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MIIL US VS

SUBJECT: MR4 REACTION TO PRESIDENT THIEU'S APRIL 4 TELEVISED SPEECH

1. CONTACTS WITH SENIOR MR-4 STAFF OFFICERS INDICAATE  
PRESIDENT THIEU'S APRIL 4 TELEVISED SPEECH MET MIXED RECEPTION.  
OFFICERS SEEM FAIRLY IMPRESSED WITH EARLY PORTION OF SPEECH  
RELATING IN FAIR DETAIL CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING TO LOSS OF  
PROVINCES IN MR1 AND MR 2. US PROVIDING OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF  
BITS OF INFORMATION WHICH HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE IN RECENT WEEKS.  
SIMILARLY, FRANK CONDEMNATION OF MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN MR2  
ELICITED FAVORABLE RESPONSE.

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2. LATER SECTION OF SPEECH DEALING WITH DETERMINATION TO HOLD

WHAT IS LEFT AND COMMENTS ON US ASSISTANCE SEEM TO HAVE ELICITED LESS INTEREST. OFFICERS FEEL FORMER WAS TOO LONG AND SOUNDED LIKE LITTLE MORE THAN EXHORTATION. IN DISCUSSING SPEECH WITH US, THEY SEEM SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED BY LATTER AND PARTICULARLY BY IMPLICATION THAT PROBLEMS OF LEADERSHIP AND MORALE STEM WHOLLY FROM INADEQUATE US ASSISTANCE. OFFICERS HAVE MADE MORE FREQUENT COMMENTS IN RECENT DAYS CRITICAL OF US POLICY AND A FEW HAVE BEEN FAIRLY BITTER. NONE, HOWEVER, APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT GVN PROBLEMS ALL CAN BE NEATLY LAID AT US DOORSTEP. ONE SENIOR VNAF OFFICER SAYS FLATLY THAT RVNAF PERFORMANCE AND LEADERSHIP, NOT INADEQUATE MATERIAL, ARE PRIMARY IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF RECENT SETBACKS. COMMENTS SINCE SPEECH HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE AND "MORAL COMMITMENT" BY US CONGRESS WITH TONE OF SUCH COMMENT UNCHANGED FROM THAT OF PAST WEEK.

3. ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL AND THIEU IN PARTICULAR ALSO APPEARS UNCHANGED BY SPEECH. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF GVN PERFORMANCE BELIEVE SPEECH WAS ATTEMPT TO DIVERT PRESSURE BUILDING UP AGAINST THIEU AND SEE CABINET CHANGE AS ANOTHER IN SERIES OF COSMETIC SHUFFLES. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN LESS VOCAL IN THEIR CRITICISM HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY APOLOGETIC FOR TONE OF SPEECH BUT STILL REFRAIN FROM DIRECT CRITICISM OF THIEU. NONE HAVE SO FAR EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON CONGRESS.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MILITARY AND MEMBERS OF CONGEN STAFF. CONTACTS REMAIN CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE.  
MCNAMARA UNQTE MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, VS, (NGUYEN VAN THIEU)  
**To:** STATE  
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